

RESOLUTION #1001 - ~~12~~ 13

WHEREAS, 2013 Act 1, the Iron Mining Law written by Gogebic Taconite enacted broad reductions to state mining laws to enable its proposal to build the largest open pit mine in Wisconsin history in the environmentally and culturally sensitive Bad River Watershed of Lake Superior. Phase one of mining would create a 6-8 square mile open pit up to 1000 feet deep permanently affecting groundwater, wetlands, lakes and streams. It will produce more than 900 million tons of acid-producing wastes that under the law can be placed in wetlands, rivers, lakes and streams. The law also affects other iron deposits such as the one in the Baraboo Range.

WHEREAS, the Bad River Watershed includes streams and rivers that are protected Exceptional and Outstanding Resource Waters and is home to many threatened and endangered species. It includes the 16,000 acre Kakagon-Bad River Sloughs that comprises 40% of the coastal wetlands of Lake Superior and is a designated National Natural Landmark. The mine site includes Class 1, 2 and 3 trout streams and the Penokee Range holds the headwaters of at least 18 rivers and streams. The DNR identified the Range's fishery and forest as an area of high conservation importance in need of protection in its 2006 Land Legacy Report.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress finds that 2013 Act 1 unnecessarily reduced environmental protections and citizen input related to iron mining and directs the Department to work with the Legislature to repeal the law.

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